

Outdoor Report

The week of October 27th, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- Fall Turkey season runs November 1st – January 31st.
 - Blacks Hills Deer season runs November 1st - 30th.
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: Fishing has been slow. Some anglers are catching the occasional Bluegill. The Walleye bite has not picked up yet this fall.

Elm Lake: Anglers are catching Walleye, Crappie and Northern Pike. The bite has been inconsistent lately.

James River: Fishing has been slow. The water level on the river has dropped in the last couple of weeks and there isn't much water flow.

Elm River: Fishing has been slow lately. The water level is low on the river.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Hunters are seeing better pheasant numbers in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. Brown County still has a lot of standing corn and that has made pheasant hunting difficult in some areas.

Goose: Hunters have had decent success hunting geese. Scouting is the key to success. The geese are feeding in bean stubble and corn stubble. The best goose hunting has been on the eastern side of Brown County.

Duck: Hunters had good success this weekend hunting ducks. Most hunters hunted ducks in small sloughs over decoys. The ducks are starting to feed in some of the corn stubble fields. Scouting is the key to success.

Swan: Swans have been showing up in good numbers in NE Brown County.

Deer: Bow Hunters have taken to the field more regularly with the colder temperatures and saw some success.

Sand Lake Waterfowl Estimates: Canada geese 2400, ducks 15000, and 130 swans. Most of the ducks on the refuge are gadwalls, mallards, green-winged teal, and northern shovelers.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: A few anglers are having some limited success.

Swan Lake: Little activity.

Antelope Lake: Little activity.

Reid Lake: Closed to boating. Little activity.

Casey's Slough: Catching a few Walleye from shore in the evenings.

Indian Springs: Few anglers but those trying are having some success.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: A few areas of the county have some decent numbers of geese and ducks staged in them. New ducks and geese are moving in from the north. A few swans have begun moving through the area. Hunters are reporting decent success.

Deer: Mornings and evenings seem to be the most active parts of the day. A few hunters have reported success.

Small Game: Hunters are reporting about 1 bird per hunter.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Lake Kampeska: The unseasonably warm weather has a few Kampeska residents out in their boats giving the Walleye fishing one last ditch effort. Most anglers are reporting a few Walleye with an occasional Bass or Northern Pike. Lunkers inlet still has some activity with the same results.

Pelican Lake: No activity.

Goose Lake: Still quite a few fishermen fishing the Grover road and catching some Walleye. The boat anglers are having good luck as well in multiple parts of the lake on Walleye.

Long Lake: Some shore fishing activity picking up all around the lake this week. The reports are pretty consistent with about two fish per person, with the opportunity to catch fish over 20 inches.

Dry Lake: Not as much activity this week on Dry Lake, but there are still a few boats out there. Reports remain similar to last week, with a few Walleye and Perch.

Grass Lake: No activity.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to youngsters in and around town to catch Bluegill, Trout or Sunfish.

Stink: A few Walleye from shore are being caught.



Hunting Report:

Ducks: Weather conditions frustrated many duck hunters this week, with warm temperatures and a lack of wind. Ducks did not come off the water in the evenings early enough to offer much shooting. In the mornings, ducks were inconsistent leaving the roost. Duck numbers are okay right now, but most hunters are still waiting for the big flocks of mallards.

Geese: There haven't been many people out targeting Canada geese this week. Most of the geese being harvested are bonus birds by folks targeting ducks in the field. There seems to still be a good number of geese in the county, especially in Watertown city limits and south of Henry.

Pheasants: The trending report from hunters is better than last year. Most hunters are still having a tough time getting a limit of pheasants in Codington County, however; they are seeing more birds than last year and remain hopeful that corn harvest will increase their chances.

Deer: Archery hunters are sitting more hours in the stand as we move closer to the rut. With harvest in full swing and pheasant hunters moving deer around, archers have a good chance of a deer coming by their stand at all hours of the day.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Most anglers are fishing from shore and are having decent success catching Walleye and Northern Pike.

Waubay: Anglers are having some success catching a few Walleye and Perch.

Reetz: Little pressure, with anglers catching a few Walleye and Crappie.

Lynn: Most anglers are catching a few Walleye.

Enemy Swim: Fishing pressure remains minimal.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Goose numbers are holding steady in the county, but we have yet to see a good push into the area. This should happen soon with the colder temperatures moving in. Saw a decent migration on speckle belly geese into the area Friday night and Saturday morning. More geese should be showing up this week. Corn harvest is probably 1/3 complete with more and more corn being harvested every day.

Duck: Decent numbers of local ducks remain in the area, but we still haven't seen any big push. With the cooler temperatures in the forecast, hunting should be getting better. Hunters are starting to harvest a few more mallard limits as well.

Pheasant: Seeing decent numbers of pheasants along the roads. Pheasant hunters had some success harvesting birds this past weekend. With the corn continuing to be harvested, hunter success should increase.

Swan: A few swans are starting to show up in the west central part of the county.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Lake Alice: Fishing has been average lately. The boat fishermen are picking up a few Perch and Walleye throughout the day. Shore fishermen are catching some Northern Pike and occasionally a Walleye, primarily in the early morning and evening hours. **Please do not block the road near the culvert. Park in the road ditch and walk to the lake so that the landowners can get vehicles in and out.**

Bullhead Lake: A few Perch and small Walleye are being caught from boats.

Round Lake: Anglers are catching a few Northern Pike from shore.

Lake Oliver: A few anglers have been fishing from the pier and catching a few Perch and Bullhead.

School Lake: A few anglers have been shore fishing on the north side of the lake, catching some Northern Pike.

Fish Lake: No activity.

Lake Ketchum: No activity.

Lake Cochrane: Anglers are catching a few Crappies from boats.

Clear Lake: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: Good numbers of Canada geese throughout the county. Most of the geese seem to be in the Clear Lake area, as well as the northwest corner of the county.

Duck: Duck numbers are still low at this time. Many of the local ducks have moved out of the area and the migration has yet to happen.

Pheasant: Finding birds remains difficult, but there are certainly more birds this year than last year.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: Scouting is the key to finding the fields they are feeding in. There are huntable numbers of geese scattered across the county.

Duck: Most ducks are in northern Faulk County. Hunters are having the best luck hunting water.

Pheasant: Hunters in the northeast portion of the county are having the best luck. Walking corn strips has proven the most success.

Deer: A lot of deer with many nice bucks, but deer are mostly nocturnal right now.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: Shore fishermen on the south end of the lake have been catching a few Northern Pike and Walleye in the evening hours. The Perch bite continues to be pretty good at times. Most of the Perch fishermen are focusing on the central portion of the lake.

Summit Lake: No reports of activity.

Hunter's Quarry: Fishing pressure has been low, but the opportunity to catch Trout still exists.



Hunting Report:

Canada goose: Canada goose numbers continue to be good throughout the county. Hunting pressure has been low. Scouting continues to be important.

Ducks: Duck hunting has been difficult over the last few weeks. Many of the local ducks have moved out of the area and the main push of the migration has yet to make its way into the county.

Pheasant: Hunters are going to have to work hard and walk a lot to find success. Success has been low so far this season.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: Very slow again this week. A few boaters are reporting some keeper Walleye and a few Perch.

Fedt Slough: A few shore fishermen this week. Reports range from small Perch to nicer Walleye.

Three Buck: No fishing activity.

Lake Norden: No fishing activity.

Lake Albert: No fishing activity.

Lake Mary/John: No fishing activity.

Clear Lake (Thomas): Some smaller Walleye, but nothing consistent.



Hunting Report:

Ducks: Warm weather and no wind have frustrated the duck hunters this week. Even scouting and getting on the "x" was not a sure thing this week for hunters. There are plenty of ducks in the Hazel area; we just need some weather to help the success.

Geese: Goose numbers in the county are still pretty good. Hunter numbers are still pretty minimal. The Michelson Marsh area along with the Hazel area is holding quite a few geese.

Pheasants: Bird numbers look better than last year, so we are headed in the right direction according to most hunters. Everyone is reporting tough harvest, but at least they are seeing more birds and everyone claims to be seeing more hens. With harvest and cool temperatures to come, things should pick up.

Deer: With harvest and pheasant hunting going on, the opportunity to see a deer come by the stand is pretty high. Most archers are taking the stand more and more as we move further into the fall and closer into the rut.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

White Lake: Little to no activity.

Piyas Lake: Walleye and Perch fishing remain decent. Anglers are catching fish in the mornings and evenings.

Opitz Lake: Great Walleye fishing in the morning and evenings. **Reminder: 15 inch minimum on Walleye.**

South Buffalo: Anglers are still catching good numbers of Bluegill, Crappie and the occasional Northern Pike.

Stink Lake: Slow.

Cattail Grade: Slow.

Roy Lake: The Smallmouth Bass and Largemouth Bass bite is decent, but overall, slow.

Clear Lake: Good Smallmouth Bass bite, but fishing for other species has slowed down. **Reminder: If you catch a tagged Smallmouth Bass – do not remove the tag; call the number listed on the tag to assist in the current study being conducted on this lake.**



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: Waterfowl numbers have increased in the last week. Scouting is the key to success. There are great Canada goose numbers in the northeast portion of the county. Ducks are using cut corn fields in the morning and evenings.

Deer: From what I have observed, the rut is just starting. The next few weeks would be the time to be in the deer stand.

Pheasant: The corn harvest is around 20% done in the county. The hunters finding cover next to harvested fields seem to be having the best success.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

Scatterwood Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Long Lake: No activity.

Eureka Lake: No activity.

Mina Lake: Very little fishing activity.

Anderson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Success was not very good. Hunters averaged about 1.5 birds per person this weekend. Hunters found birds in standing corn and in slough areas. Hunters reported seeing minimal birds. Hunter numbers were down. Hunters are finding birds in harvested corn fields.

Goose: McPherson County is not holding very many geese. Most geese in this area can be found from Roscoe to Bowdle and up to the Hosmer area. There is very little hunting pressure.

Dove: Most have migrated south due to the colder temperatures.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low. McPherson County is the best place to try.

Duck: Good numbers of ducks in both counties. The Ipswich to Bowdle area and south of HWY 12 is holding the largest concentration of ducks. Some good pockets of ducks can be found in both counties. Hunters are having good luck decoying ducks in partially harvested corn fields.

Swan: Good numbers of swans in McPherson County. A few small pockets of swans can be found in Edmunds County. North of HWY 10 in McPherson County is holding the most Swans.

Sandhill Crane: A few cranes started to show up in McPherson County. The central parts of both counties are seeing the highest number of cranes. Numbers in this area are still low and I would expect the number of cranes to pick up this week.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Walleye action is good throughout the lake, as well as the Mystinka River.

Dry Wood Lake: Walleye bite is good.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Numbers are good throughout the county. As more corn gets harvested, the geese should start patterning. Scouting is the key to success.

Duck: Duck numbers are okay and we're just starting to see a few new birds move into the county. Some field hunters did find some birds, but it was slow.

Swan: A few swans are starting to show up.

Grouse: Grouse numbers are low, but a few can be found on the coteau.

Pheasant: Hunters had difficulty finding birds, mostly due to all the corn being in the fields yet. Best success came in hunting CRP, sloughs or grass, towards evening.

Deer: Youth hunters and archers are finding a few deer moving around.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: Fishing activity is slow.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Anglers are catching good numbers of Walleyes towards dark. Fish are varying from 12 to 18 inches.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity.

Turtle Creek: No fishing activity.

James River: Anglers are catching some Walleyes. The river level is low.



Hunting Report:

Goose: There are some new groups of geese in the county. There are some good sized flocks feeding in corn fields.

Duck: Hunters are having decent success on Mansfield Slough and a lot of local ducks are around water. There is no migration of ducks to speak of yet.

Pheasant: The warm weather has been tough for pheasant season. Everyone is having some luck. A lot of young roosters are getting harvested. As more corn gets harvested, more pheasants will start showing up.

Deer: A few archery bucks and does were taken, but most bucks are still nocturnal, pending the rut to come.